Remarks

Currently Claims 1-10, 14, 17-23 and 25-35 are pending. Claims 13 and 24 are canceled. Claims 1, 6 and 8 are amended to change the plural recitation of "pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives" to the singular. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment does not narrow the scope of the claim. Claims 9, 10, 14, 18-23 and 25-26 are amended to eliminate the redundant recitation of "of formula (I)...". As this language is present in the claim from which claims 9, 10, 14,18-23 and 25-26 depend, the recitation is seen as duplicative and unnecessary. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment does not alter the scope of the claim. Claim 26 is further amended to remove the recitation of "mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2". No new matter is added. Claims 28 and 29 are amended to correct a clerical error, changing "and" to "or". No new matter is added.

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 483-8222, to discuss this case further if desired.

Respectfully submitted,

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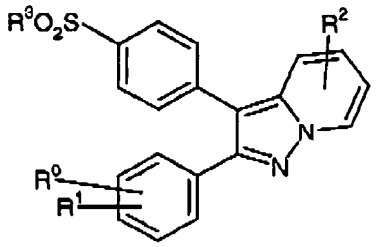
Marked-up Claims

1. (Thrice Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

~~and~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative ~~derivatives~~ thereof wherein

R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, and C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6}alkoxy, C_{1-6}hydroxyalkyl, SC_{1-6}alkyl, C(O)H, $C(O)C_{1-6}$alkyl, C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and

R^3 is C_{1-6}alkyl or NH_2.

6. (Twice Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-(2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)-benzenesulfonamide;

3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[2-(4-methyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;

~~and~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative ~~derivatives~~ thereof.

8. (Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

4-[6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

4-[6-methyl-2-phenyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

6-methyl-2-phenyl -3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

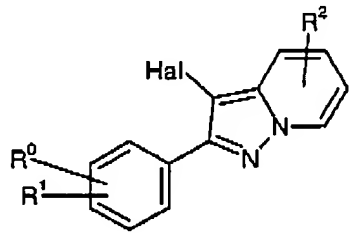
2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;

~~and~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative ~~derivatives~~ thereof.

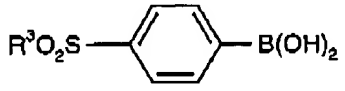
9. (Twice Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



(III)

or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

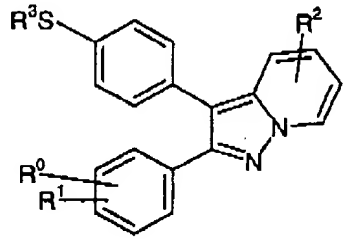
(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

10. (Twice Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound ~~of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

14. (Twice Amended) A method of treating an animal subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a compound ~~of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1.

18. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^3 represents C_{1-4}alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (IV)



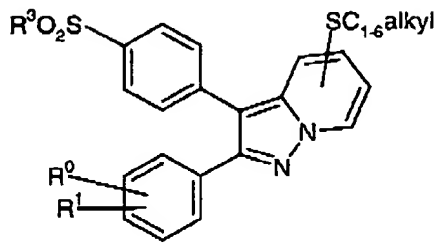
(IV)

or a protected derivative thereof with an oxidising agent to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

19. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^2 is C_{1-6}alkylsulphonyl, oxidising a compound of formula (V)



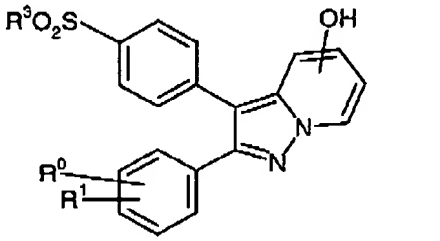
(V)

or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

20. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^2 is C_{1-6}alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, reacting a alcohol of formula (VI)



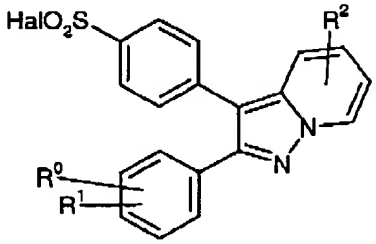
(VI)

or a protected derivative thereof with a halofluoroalkane to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

21. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^3 is NH_2, reacting a compound of formula (X)



(X)

with a source of ammonia under conventional conditions to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

22. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

23. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound ~~compounds of formula (I) and pharmaceutically acceptable derivatives thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

25. (Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from an inflammatory disorder, which method comprises administering to

said subject an effective amount of a compound ~~of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1.

26. (Twice Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a human subject suffering from a condition or disease selected from the group consisting of pain, fever and inflammation ~~mediated by selective inhibition of COX-2~~, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound ~~of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof~~ as claimed in claim 1.

28. (Twice Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or ~~and~~ treatment of a human subject suffering from pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

29. (Twice Amended) A method for the prophylaxis or ~~and~~ treatment of a human subject suffering from arthritis, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.